

## Introduction

The primary responsibility of the County Clerk's *Bureau of Elections* (BOE) division is to administer fair, efficient, transparent and cost effective elections for Bernalillo County residents and voters. Under the leadership of the County Clerk, BOE consistently meets the changing demands of the electoral process while minimizing costs to the taxpayer.

Over the last decade the process for casting a ballot in Bernalillo County has evolved significantly from a practice once focused almost exclusively on Election Day, to an election system that gives the voter the power to choose when and how to vote. Early and absentee voting have become increasingly popular in recent years. For the 2008 General Election, more than 70% of the electorate chose absentee or early voting over traditional Election Day voting (Figure 1). In response, the Clerk's Office now offers seventeen regular early voting locations and recently introduced on-demand balloting. Such advancements have provided greater choice to the voter and reduced costs to the taxpayer.

**Figure 1. 2008 General Election % Turnout by Method of Voting**

Absentee	27.1%
Early Voting	44.2%
Election Day	28.7%

For future elections, the Bureau of Elections proposes advancing Election Day voting with the same goal of promoting convenience, transparency and cost effectiveness. This document presents the concept of the ***Voting Convenience Center (VCC)*** as a key advancement for Election Day voting. The VCC model promises to enhance the voter experience by providing more choice and greater convenience to voters wanting to cast their vote on Election Day. Additionally, the VCC model aims to make future elections more cost effective to the taxpayer.